

The Steppenwolf Theatre Company has evolved effortlessly with changing times, while maintaining relationships with established playwrights such as Sam Shepard, Lanford Wilson and Alan Ayckbourn. They have reinvented classics like John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, and more recently produced and developed the world premiere of *Man from Nebraska* by ensemble member Tracy Letts.

With their original principals of ensemble collaboration and artistic risk still flourishing, Steppenwolf now approaches its 30th anniversary as a professional theater company. The Company has been lavished with high praise from national and international media, art critics and audiences alike.

This persistent effort has earned Steppenwolf several prestigious awards. Most recently, they include the Joseph Jefferson Award for Chicago Theatre Excellence and the 2003 Equity Special Award for leadership in national and international acclaim for Chicago Theatre, and for excellent training and outreach programs, partnership and support of theatres, playwrights and artists new to the scene.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all proud residents of the Fifth District and the City of Chicago in congratulating the Steppenwolf Theatre Company on its many achievements in thirty years, and wish it continued success as it further solidifies its unique and landmark status in our great City.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF GEORGE R. TUCKER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life's work of George R. Tucker, retiring as the Regional Director and Executive Secretary of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO. Mr. Tucker has spent his career furthering the goals of organized labor in the struggle to improve the lives and livelihoods of the brothers and sisters and thus, make our Nation stronger.

AFL Founder Samuel Gompers explained in an 1898 speech, "To protect the workers in their inalienable rights to a higher and better life; to protect them, not only as equals before the law, but also in their health, their homes, their firesides, their liberties as men, as workers, as citizens; to overcome and conquer prejudices and antagonism; to secure to them the right to life, and the opportunity to maintain that life; the right to be full sharers in the abundance which is the result of their brain and brawn, and the civilization of which they are the founders and the mainstay. . . . The attainment of these is the glorious mission of the trade unions." His words ring as eloquently true in the dawn of the 21st century as they did in the waning of the 19th century. His words provide the blueprint by which labor leaders like George Tucker have always led, setting the economic and social achievements of the membership as a whole as their primary goal.

George Tucker completed high school at Toledo's Woodward High School and followed

that with service in the United States Navy. After more than two decades "in the trenches," he became the staff representative for AFSCME's Ohio Council 8 in 1984. In 1987 he took on the responsibilities of Regional Director, adding Executive Secretary in 2002. Other offices Mr. Tucker has held during his tenure with AFSCME Ohio Council 8 are Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Vice President. At the same time, he has served the Toledo Area AFL-CIO on its steering committee and executive board and as President. He also holds a position on the national AFL-CIO's advisory board. Mr. Tucker gives of his time and talents to the United Labor Committee, Northwest Ohio Center for Labor Management Cooperation, Toledo Labor Management Citizens Committee, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. In all these pursuits, he has championed the causes of better wages, benefits, and working conditions for the thousands of workers whose lives he has touched.

Mr. Tucker has not limited his service to the union movement; he is also a community leader. He has ably and actively served on the boards of the local EMS, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Ohio Public Employers Lawyers Association, the Private Industry Council, United Way, Lucas County Democratic Party, Toledo Port Council, and the Down River Inter-City Hockey Club in Detroit and the Greater Toledo Amateur Hockey Association. He is a member of American Legion Post 110, Destroyer Escort Sailors Association, Augsburg Lutheran Church, and the Placers Car Club.

Reviewing the exhaustive list of George Tucker's civic activities, it is clear his retirement is most deserved and maybe a little bit welcome. We wish him a most enjoyable journey on this new path in his life. We hope he is able to spend time with his wife and their children and grandchildren, and pursue golfing and the hobby of antique cars with the same vigor with which he has pursued his public life. Even though he may be officially retiring, we know we can continue to count on George Tucker's learned wisdom and personal counsel. Our community has been bettered immeasurably as a result of his dedication and good cheer. Onward, friend.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
EPOCH BY THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with Congress that on Monday, April 19, 2004, District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams will publicly dedicate Epoch, a permanent monumental abstract steel sculpture by artist Albert Paley, which was recently installed in front of the PEPCO Headquarters at 9th and G Streets, NW. A poem by Dolores Kendrick, Poet Laureate of Washington, DC, is stamped into the metal structure of the sculpture. The genesis and placement of the text were determined through collaborative efforts between Ms. Kendrick and Mr. Paley. This project represents the second instance in which an African American woman has been honored by being prominently represented in a

public artwork in the District of Columbia. The first African American woman was Mary McLeod Bethune, whose sculpture is in Lincoln Park.

Epoch will serve as a major landmark in the heart of newly re-developed and revitalized downtown Washington, DC. Its location marks a major intersection for pedestrian and vehicular travel within the dynamic 7th Street Arts District, an area that is emerging as a hot and stylish destination for entertainment, retail, and culture. Epoch is installed across the street from the Smithsonian Museum of American Art/Portrait Gallery, the Gallery Place Metro Station, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, the main branch of the DC Public Library. This area also features the MCI Center Arena, the new Washington Convention Center, the City Museum of Washington, DC, the Washington Shakespeare Theatre, the Spy Museum, the National Mall, and a significant number of prominent art galleries, shops, and restaurants.

Epoch measures 25 feet high by 12 feet wide by 10 feet deep, approximately one and a half stories tall, and is painted in a vibrant multicolored palette featuring blue, yellow, purple and red-orange. The design of the sculpture was recommended by a special selection committee for the project that included community representatives and was approved by Commissioners of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia) and the Commission of Fine Arts (appointed by the President of the U.S.A.).

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MARSHALL

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and constituent, a beloved citizen of Aransas Pass, Texas, an established entrepreneur, and a compassionate neighbor—Mr. Charles Marshall. He has served his town, its needy and especially, its children, for nearly half of a century.

I can think of no one more deserving of recognition for empowering a community with the best educational opportunities that can be bestowed upon its youngest citizens. It is the personal values he has held throughout his years of public service which enhance the contributions and unshakeable faith he has for the people of Aransas Pass.

Charlie Marshall was born July 7, 1923 in Skidmore, Texas. He attended public school in Raymondville and later graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He served his country in the Navy during World War II, serving for 3 years on a back-up troop transport in an operating room. After returning from the war, he threw himself into civilian life and enrolled in Landig Mortuary College in Houston, Texas—eventually rising to valedictorian and class president.

He moved to Aransas Pass in 1949 and went to work for Cage Funeral Home. In 1953, it became Cage-Marshall Funeral Homes. Thirty-five years later, in 1998, the Charlie Marshall Funeral Home and Crematory of Aransas Pass was officially dedicated. Charlie's professional commitment was recognized